

more dedication, and has been more courageous in going into places that have been a danger to him personally in order to represent the American people with great distinction and effectiveness. I thank you, Mr. PAYNE, and look to you for your ongoing leadership on this important issue.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that Dr. King was right when he proclaimed that the measure of a person is not where a person stands in times of comfort and convenience, but, rather, where a person stands in times of challenge and controversy.

I have a question for my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. The question is: Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time? Where do we stand, Mr. Speaker, on the question of genocide in Darfur? A question that transcends race because there really is but one race, and that is the human race; a question that transcends gender because what is happening in Darfur is happening to persons of both genders. Where do we stand on one of the great questions, one of the great controversies of our day?

It has been said that hundreds of thousands have been killed. Nobody really knows how many; millions displaced, but nobody really knows how many. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

I have been to Darfur. I was there in the month of August. I have seen the throngs of humanity living in huts made of straw, living on the ground and off of the land, persons living under conditions that we would not want animals and lower life forms to live under. I have seen these conditions. No running water, no electricity, no sanitation facilities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with the general of the AU forces. He made it very clear that they were being outgunned, that they were being overpowered under certain circumstances, that they needed help, and he would welcome the presence of the U.N. forces. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

We met with NGOs. They told us of how 11-year-old babies had been raped, and how the government would not allow an offense report to be filed. File an incident report, say that it happened, but don't give enough details so that a proper prosecution could take place. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with former rebel leaders who are now part of the government. They want the U.N. forces. They understand that genocide is still taking place in Darfur. They understand that unless we have outside intervention, it will continue. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

A superpower has to have super vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish. And when a superpower doesn't have super vision, you have super deaths, super atrocities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges of our time?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. PAYNE, members of the CBC, Leader PELOSI, we stand with the people of Darfur, the indigenous population. We stand for justice, for the least, the last and the lost. We stand for making sure that no decent, self-respecting company does business with Darfur. Any company that does business with Darfur commits a sin. This is one of the great tragedies of our time. We stand for standing against those businesses that are allowing this tragedy to continue, because if you do business with this country, you are doing business with those who are perpetrating genocide.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that there are good people in this House, and we are calling on people of goodwill to take a stand against one of the great challenges and controversies of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PAYNE for his leadership, and for being that lone voice many, many years ago, calling to our attention the atrocities, the genocide, that has been taking place in Darfur.

We have debated this genocide for nearly 2 years now. It is time for action. As we speak, the violence in Darfur escalates while the hands of the United Nations, quite frankly, are tied by Sudanese President al-Bashir.

Mr. Speaker, this is the moment of truth. The world is watching. Just yesterday, the President announced at the United Nations General Assembly that Andrew Natsios will serve as the President's Special Envoy for Sudan. A special envoy is long overdue.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated rapidly over the last few months. Rapes have increased. There were about 500 rapes over the summer in one camp alone. Twelve humanitarian workers have been killed, including two in the last 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, 26,000 Sudan armed forces are headed to Darfur for major offensive. There has been renewed aerial bombardment. Twelve years ago, the world stood by when almost 1 million people were slaughtered in Rwanda. And for the most part the only thing our government did was say "I'm sorry," and that was after the fact.

Now we have said, "Not on our watch. We will not have another Rwanda," so our credibility, quite frankly, is on the line. We cannot let Darfur become another Rwanda. Already too many people, we are hearing upwards of 400,000 to 450,000 people have died. Too many women have been raped, too many villages have been burned, and too many people have been displaced.

I witnessed this ongoing tragedy on two occasions. The first time was in January of 2005 in a bipartisan delegation under the leadership of Chairman ED ROYCE. We visited the refugee camps in Chad and went into Darfur with two great humanitarian leaders, Don Cheadle, the brilliant Academy Award nominee, star of "Hotel Rwanda," and also Paul Rusase-bi-gee-na whose courage in Rwanda saved many, many lives.

During that visit we saw children and we talked to the children who were traumatized. Everyone was traumatized. You could see it in their eyes. They were dazed. The children painted pictures when we said what happened. They painted pictures of airplanes and helicopters with bombs dropping on the villages. Then at the bottom of picture, what was there but men on horseback with guns and with machetes burning down the villages and killing the people. This is what children saw and what they were communicating with us and begging and pleading us to stop.

Most recently, under the great leadership of Minority Leader NANCY

PELOSI, she led a bipartisan delegation, we once again visited refugee camps in another region of Darfur and saw the same suffering. This was a year and a half later, and it was escalating and getting worse. We talked to people and saw once again, genocide is taking place right during our watch. We have to be more about action and not just about talk. We have to use every tool available to end this genocide. That is why we are doing everything we can do.

We are frustrated by the slow action of this Congress and especially the Senate. The House passed the bipartisan Darfur Peace and Accountability Act in April. Who knows how many lives would have been saved had that bill been moved out of the Senate quickly?

Yes, I believe we have to hit Khartoum where it hurts, and that is in their pocketbook, and allow States to divest of their pension funds in companies with blood on their hands, companies that have invested and are doing business in the Sudan. You may remember that divestment was a successful tool in ending the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Today, young people, State legislatures, colleges, universities, States, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon and Maine, have all passed legislation mandating divestment of State funds from companies that conduct business in the Sudan. The divestment legislation in California awaits signature of our Governor. States like Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Iowa and Texas, all of these States have legislation, they are drafting it or it is in place, to divest of State funds from companies that conduct business in the Sudan. It is a shame that we can't get this provision in the bill or keep it in the bill as it moves out of the Senate.

Additionally, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) are driving their respective colleges and universities to divest from companies doing business in the Sudan.

And yes, we have introduced the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act which applauds the divestment efforts and provides preemption language to protect their divestment activities.

And we also believe in this bill that we are going to go a little bit further and say the United States Government prohibits contracts with any multinational company doing business in the Sudan if the nature of the business relationship is with the national, regional, and local Government of Sudan, and many other aspects of really calling out those companies who continue to hide behind the shield of their business operations and investment operations, but really what they are doing is contributing to the Sudanese Government in their efforts to wipe out a whole group of people.

We are not without options to stop this genocide and the suffering in Darfur. If we have the political will, we

can end the suffering. It is a desperate situation. It is a humanitarian catastrophe. We must insist upon a real political settlement, a peace agreement that goes far beyond the May 6 agreement.

We have to ensure that Darfurians return to their villages quickly and reclaim their lives. We have to bring the perpetrators of this State-sponsored genocide, and that is what it is, State-sponsored genocide; we have to bring them to justice. I thank Mr. PAYNE for his leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 2000

BLAME AMERICA FIRST CROWD; CONDEMN OUR TROOPS

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are some that come before this body, come to this floor and like to play the blame America first. Let us play the blame game, blame America first. We have had people come here, and even a former marine came to this floor and called Active Duty marines cold-blooded killers who had not been tried, who had not been even charged, and, as I understand it, not even charged today, accused people of coverups.

There is so much good in the United States military services. It deserves to be addressed. The members of our military deserve accolades. Having spent 4 years in the United States Army, I can tell you that these members serving now are some of the best that have ever served in the United States armed services.

So rather than blame America first, as so many want to do, I thought it would be more appropriate to come to the floor and talk about heroes of our American military, people of whom we are proud.

Now, you are going to end up hearing me do this quite a bit from here on. We have asked for information from the Department of Defense about people who have won honors for their heroic acts, and so I want to present to you tonight about Sergeant First Class Paul Smith. He served with Bravo Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, during the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003.

On April 4, 2003, Sergeant Smith was setting up a temporary enemy prisoner

of war holding area during the seizure of Saddam International Airport when his unit came under attack. Smith kept his soldiers focused during the fight while engaging the Iraqi force of around 100 men with his M16, one hand grenade, and an AT4 antiarmor weapon.

At one point in the battle, Sergeant Smith manned a .50-caliber machine gun in the exposed turret of a damaged M113 armored personnel carrier and began firing at the main force of the enemy. He fired about 400 rounds of ammunition, which gave his soldiers time to regroup, time to mount an attack of their own. And when the shooting stopped, the Iraqi force had been defeated. Unfortunately, that was not before Sergeant Smith suffered an enemy bullet to the head.

Two years to the day later, Sergeant First Class Paul Smith's 11-year-old son David was presented this Nation's highest honor, his father's Medal of Honor, by President Bush. The President did not fall short on recognizing the significance of Sergeant Smith's heroic actions. He said, "Sergeant Smith gave his all for his men. Five days later Baghdad fell, and the Iraqi people were liberated. We count ourselves blessed that we have soldiers like Sergeant Smith."

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." Sergeant First Class Paul Smith laid down his life for all of his men, for his country, and we are the better for it.

May God bless Sergeant Smith, his soul, his family, his soldiers. And may God continue to bless America.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, we are at a very dangerous point in time in our fight for human rights and human dignity as the atrocities in the Sudan continue to spiral out of control and hundreds of thousands of lives are held in the balance.

Millions of Sudanese have already been brutalized, raped, murdered, and displaced as the world stands idly by and waits to decide whether they are going to intervene or not on behalf of those victims.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to wait any longer. This Nation, our Nation, America must reclaim its role as the world's moral leader and the world's greatest defender of the oppressed. At a time when we are asking others to trust our judgment and join us against tyranny, there is no other call as just as the one we face in Darfur.

America cannot and the world cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the atrocities taking place in Sudan. History would judge us harshly for allowing these acts of brutality to fester,